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Security Council

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Letter dated 15 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Nigeria in July 2010 (see annex). The report was prepared under my national responsibility, following consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) U. Joy **Ogwu**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 15 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Nigeria (July 2010)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, the Security Council had an extensive programme of work. During the month, the Council held 12 consultations, 4 briefings, 2 private meetings and 3 open debates. The Council issued three presidential statements, six press statements and adopted one resolution on the extension of a United Nations peacekeeping mission mandate.

Africa

United Nations Office for West Africa

The Security Council received a public briefing on 13 July by Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Said Djinnit, on the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), on the basis of the Secretary-General's six-monthly report (S/2010/324). In his briefing, Mr. Djinnit underlined the gradual progress that had been made in terms of regional stability, highlighting as examples the peaceful conduct of national elections in Togo and the stemming of a constitutional crisis in Guinea. In the consultations that followed, a number of cross-cutting security issues were discussed, including drug trafficking. Council members recognized that the subregion remains vulnerable to instability and discussed ways of strengthening UNOWA's functions. The effective work of UNOWA was widely acknowledged and UNOWA was encouraged to deepen its cooperation with other United Nations agencies.

Liberia

On 13 July, the Council was briefed by Ambassador Ivan Barbalić, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in his capacity as Chair of the 1521 (Liberia) sanctions Committee. Recalling the lifting of the arms embargo vis-à-vis the Government of Liberia pursuant to Security Council resolution 1903 (2009), Ambassador Barbalić reported on Liberia's progress towards achieving compliance with Kimberly Process Certification Scheme for diamonds, as well as steps taken to better utilize natural resources to enhance peace, security and development. He also reported on the travel ban and asset freeze. Council members expressed over the lack of implementation of the asset freeze and the unabated trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the region.

Guinea-Bissau

On 15 July 2010, the Council was briefed by the representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, on the basis of the report of

the Secretary-General (S/2010/335). The Council also heard a briefing by the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil. Mr. Adelino Queta, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau, also joined the meeting to update the Council on the situation in the country.

During subsequent consultations of the whole, Council members expressed concern over the continued growth in drug trafficking as well as organized crime, which threatened peace and security not only in Guinea-Bissau, but the entire subregion. The Council members stressed the need for the Government of Guinea-Bissau to implement a comprehensive national strategy for security sector reform.

Some members called upon the international community to provide continued support for capacity-building within Guinea-Bissau's law enforcement and judicial authorities to enable them to address these problems. They welcomed the commitment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in collaboration with the European Union and other partners, to explore possibilities for the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan on Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, including options for possible sanctions against those identified as members of the drug trafficking network.

A presidential statement was subsequently adopted on 22 July 2010 (S/PRST/2010/15). In the statement, the Security Council noted the efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to stabilize the country and recognized the shared responsibility of the international community to halt the production, consumption and transport of drugs. Underscoring those points, the Security Council called upon the authorities of Guinea-Bissau to consolidate efforts to tackle drug trafficking and organized crime. The Council expressed concern about the security situation and threats to constitutional order and urged all stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau to work towards national reconciliation, maintaining stability and fighting impunity and respecting the rule of law.

Calling for the immediate release or prosecution of all those detained during the events of 1 April 2010, the Council stressed that genuine security sector reform required the creation of effective and accountable security forces and respect for the rule of law. It therefore called upon the Government to create the conditions for reform, and upon the military to fulfil their commitments to abide by civilian control. The Council called upon both the civilian authorities and the security forces to implement the current security sector reform programmes on schedule.

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur troop-contributing countries

On 19 July, the Security Council held a private meeting with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). During the meeting, Council members exchanged views with Mr. Atul Khare, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Lieutenant General Chikadibia Obiakor, Military Adviser for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Ata Yenigun of the Police Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Emil Petrunov of the Department of Field Support and the representatives of participating troop- and police-contributing countries.

Resolution 1907 (2009) report

On 20 July, following a briefing by Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on the Secretary-General's report on Eritrea and its disputes with Djibouti, the Council held consultations of the whole during which the Chair of the 751/1907 Committee, Ambassador Claude Heller of Mexico, briefed the Council on the activities of the Committee. The President of the Security Council read out a press statement noting that the measures in paragraph 5 of resolution 1916 (2009) remain necessary to address the situation in Somalia, which continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security.

African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

The Security Council received a briefing in the chamber on 27 July 2010 by Ambassador Ibrahim Gambari, Joint Special Representative for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Recalling the benchmarks for progress listed in the report of the Secretary-General of 16 November 2009 (S/2009/592) — a comprehensive political solution, a secure and stable environment, enhanced rule of law, governance and respect for human rights, and a stabilized humanitarian situation — Mr. Gambari warned that the overall security situation continued to deteriorate in Darfur. He notified Council members of clashes between members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and Government forces and attacks upon Government forces by the Abdul Wahid faction of the Sudan Liberation Army. He recounted JEM's refusal to participate in the Doha peace talks, as well as recent incidents of inter-communal fighting. Given these developments, and an increase in attacks against humanitarian personnel, which has hampered the delivery of aid to people in need, Mr. Gambari observed that the Darfur peace process is now at a critical juncture.

Closed consultations took place following the briefing. Council members exchanged views on the content of the briefing and on the Secretary-General's recommendation, contained in his 14 July 2010 report (S/2010/382), to extend the mandate of the UNAMID operation for a further year.

On 30 July 2010, the Security Council adopted resolution 1935 (2010), which acknowledges the deterioration in the security situation in Darfur and its impact on the stability of Sudan as a whole and the need to pursue a rigorous and strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments. The resolution also acknowledges the efforts of the African Union (AU) High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan confirming the extension of the UNAMID mandate and the importance of promoting the AU-United Nations led political process in Darfur. The Security Council also condemns the attacks on UNAMID and all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Darfur in the resolution. In extending the UNAMID mandate until 31 July 2011, the resolution also requests UNAMID and the United Nations country team to develop a comprehensive strategy for making full use of its mandate and capabilities to achieve certain specified objectives, including the protection of civilians across Darfur and ensuring safe humanitarian access, and the promotion of the sustained engagement of all Darfurian stakeholders in the political process.

Later that day, the Security Council met in consultations to discuss the circumstances surrounding the recent clashes in and around Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur and UNAMID efforts to keep the peace. The Council received a

briefing from Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Council members expressed concern over the clashes that resulted in the loss of life and injuries. At the conclusion of the meeting, the President of the Security Council, Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu delivered remarks on behalf of the Council, underlining the need for full understanding of the surrounding facts, and urging all parties to join the Doha peace process. The remarks to the press included an expression of concern in relation to the reported civilian casualties and the continued attacks against UNAMID peacekeepers. All parties were also encouraged to respect UNAMID's civilian protection mandate.

United Nations Mission in the Sudan

On 29 July 2010, the Security Council met in consultations to discuss the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) peacekeeping mission. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations gave a briefing on recent developments in relation to the work of UNMIS, especially with the imminence of the referendums in Abiye and South Sudan. Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Susana Malcorra, briefed on the required field support. Council members reiterated their support for continued UNMIS engagement to provide security, support the referendum processes and help maintain a North/South dialogue. Some members stated that the prospect of unity remained a realistic prospect.

Asia

Letter dated 4 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the president of the Security Council and other relevant letters (S/2010/281)

The Security Council convened on 9 July 2010 and a presidential statement was issued at the end of the Council debate (S/PRST/2010/13). In the statement, the Council deplored the attack on 26 March 2010 and sinking of the naval ship of the Republic of Korea, the *Cheonan*, which resulted in the tragic loss of 46 lives. The Council expressed its deep sympathy for and condolences to the victims and their families and to the people and Government of the Republic of Korea, and called for appropriate and peaceful measures to be taken against those responsible for the incident aimed at the peaceful settlement of the issue in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and all other relevant provisions of international law.

In view of the findings of the Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group led by the Republic of Korea with the participation of five nations, which concluded that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was responsible for sinking the *Cheonan*, the Council expressed its deep concern.

The Security Council took note of the responses from other relevant parties, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which had stated that it had nothing to do with the incident.

Therefore, the Security Council condemned the attack that led to the sinking of the *Cheonan*.

The Security Council underscored the importance of preventing further such attacks or hostilities against the Republic of Korea or in the region.

The Security Council called for full adherence to the Korean Armistice Agreement and encouraged the settlement of the outstanding issues on the Korean Peninsula by peaceful means to resume direct dialogue and negotiation through appropriate channels as early as possible, with a view to avoiding conflict and averting escalation.

The Security Council reaffirmed the importance of all Member States upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Islamic Republic of Iran

In a press statement issued on 16 July 2010 (SC/9986), the Security Council strongly condemned the terrorist attacks that occurred in Zahedan, Islamic Republic of Iran, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries. While expressing sympathy and support for the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Council also underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of such acts to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Iranian authorities in this regard.

Europe

Kosovo

At the request of the Republic of Serbia, and following a closed consultation, an urgent Council debate was held on 6 July to discuss the incident of an explosion in Mitrovica, northern Kosovo. The explosion resulted in the loss of one life and several injuries of the Serb minority. The Council was briefed by Mr. Boris Tadić, President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Mr. Yves de Kermabon, on behalf of the European Union, and Mr. Skender Hyseni of Kosovo.

Members of the Council condemned the incident and called on all sides to refrain from provocative statements and actions. They also called for an investigation into the matter with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice. Council members further urged all parties to seek a peaceful resolution of the issue through constructive dialogue. Many members reaffirmed their support for the role played by UNMIK in this regard.

Middle East

United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

On 9 July, consultations of the whole were conducted on the subject of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Council was briefed by Mr. Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, following which the members of the Council exchanged views on recent incidents in southern Lebanon in late June and early July in which UNIFIL's freedom of movement was impeded. A press statement (SC/9976) was agreed commending the active role of UNIFIL in ensuring the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). In addition, the Council

emphasized the importance of ensuring UNIFIL's freedom of movement in order to carry out its mandate and called upon all parties to abide by their obligation to respect the safety of UNIFIL and other United Nations personnel. The Council also encouraged further coordination between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army. The press statement called on the Government of Lebanon to strengthen its deployment of armed forces in the region and to reinforce its cooperation with UNIFIL peacekeepers.

Consultations of the whole were held on 14 July to discuss the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). The Council was briefed by Mr. Michael Williams, Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General for Lebanon, and Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Following the briefings, members of the Council reaffirmed their support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and stressed the importance of UNIFIL's continued presence. Certain Council members expressed their concern about the need for the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

Iraq (Development Fund for Iraq/International Advisory and Monitoring Board)

A public meeting was held on 12 July to hear the quarterly briefings pursuant to Security Council resolution 1905 (2009) by Mr. Abdul Basity Turky Saed, Head of the Committee of Financial Experts (COFE) of Iraq, and by the United Nations Controller, Mr. Jun Yamakazi, on the basis of their respective reports (S/2010/365 and S/2010/359).

A private meeting was then convened at which Council members made statements. It was broadly agreed that a number of crucial elements, such as an oil-metering system, must still be implemented to allow Iraq to fully manage its own export revenues and channel them towards development needs. The efforts of the Government of Iraq at following a plan of action and timeline towards establishing a successor mechanism to the Development Fund for Iraq by the end of the year were welcomed. In addition, the independent audit of the Development Fund for Iraq received a positive response from Council members, as it is considered that such a step would enhance transparency and accountability.

Middle East: open debate

An open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine, took place on 21 July 2010. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe. He stressed the need to re-establish direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians in order to pave the way for the realization of a two-State solution. Noting that the process is again at a critical juncture, he indicated that such talks are necessary to end the 1967 occupation and the conflict and resolve all core issues between the parties, including Jerusalem, borders, refugees, security, settlements and water. Noting the follow-up committee meeting of the League of Arab States to be held on 29 July, he urged the parties not to miss the current opportunity to make progress in talks and to move to direct negotiations with active third-party involvement and close Quartet support.

After the briefing, and the interventions made by the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer of Palestine, Council members and 37 other speakers made statements. Council members were united in their wish to see the conflict between the two sides resolved as a matter of urgency. Council

members reaffirmed their commitment to the Middle East peace. Some Council members suggested measures that would support progress towards such a resolution, including the complete lifting of restrictions on access for goods and people to Gaza, and called on Israel to end its settlement activities. Some Council members called for the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, who is being held prisoner by Hamas in Gaza; and some stressed that the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza should be done through established channels. Many Council members called for a prompt, impartial, transparent and credible investigation conforming to international standards into the flotilla incident of 31 May 2010 resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza.

Afghanistan

On 23 July 2010, the Secretary-General briefed the Council in closed consultation on the Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan on 20 July 2010. He noted that the conference signified the launch of a process of transition to greater Afghan ownership of issues of security, governance and development.

Following the meeting, the Council President, Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu of Nigeria, read a press statement (SC/9992) in which the Security Council welcomed the Kabul Conference communiqué, and recognized the conference as an important milestone in the Kabul process. The members of the Council called upon the international community to provide assistance to support the Kabul process in greater alignment with Afghan priorities. Council members also acknowledged the intention of the Afghan Government to engage with Council members and the international community in an evidence-based and transparent process of de-listing individuals from the Consolidated List under Security Council resolution 1267 (1999).

Thematic and other issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

In a press statement issued on 12 July (SC/9980), the Security Council strongly condemned the terrorist attacks that occurred in Kampala, Uganda, on 11 July 2010, causing numerous deaths and injuries. While expressing their sympathy and support for the people and Government of Uganda, the Council members underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of such acts to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Ugandan authorities.

Protection of civilians

The six-monthly open debate on protection of civilians took place on 7 July. Members of the Council heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. John Holmes, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navanathem Pillay. The Secretary-General of the United Nations also addressed the meeting.

Some members of the Council offered support for the ongoing work of the Offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Refugees, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in addressing this issue. Council members also highlighted key challenges, including incorporating specific protection of civilians' obligations into peacekeeping mandates; efforts to increase the adherence of non-State armed groups to international law; ensuring accountability for violations at national and international levels, as well as the rise in attacks on humanitarian workers and the need to improve humanitarian access. They also called for better implementation of international human rights and humanitarian law. Council members agreed that, while national authorities bore the primary responsibility for protecting civilians, regional organizations and the international community also had an important role to play.

Consultative Meeting between members of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

On 9 July 2010, a delegation from the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) met with members of the Security Council for a consultative meeting to review the degree of cooperation between them with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, including the maintenance of constitutional order, and the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Africa. The outcome of the meeting was an agreed communiqué, which recorded, inter alia, that members of the Security Council and AUPSC reviewed developments in the Sudan and the Horn of Africa, and discussed how best to coordinate and work together to enhance peace and security. The participants agreed to further consider undertaking collaborative field missions, on a case-by-case basis, and, as appropriate, in respect of selected peacekeeping operations to enhance synergy in monitoring, assessment of results and response strategies.

The members of the Security Council and AUPSC noted with appreciation the positive efforts made in conflict resolution in Africa and encouraged all stakeholders to follow through with their efforts to enhance peace and security in the continent. Finally, it was agreed that a further consultative meeting should be held at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa no later than June 2011.

Optimizing the use of preventive diplomacy tools: prospects and challenges for Africa

On 16 July, the Security Council held an open debate on the issue of preventive diplomacy. The Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, and Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Special Representative and Director, for the World Development Report 2011: "Conflict, Security and Development", briefed the Council. Speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General observed that preventive diplomacy strategies could achieve much in the way of fostering sustainable peace. Noting recent studies, which estimate that 15 years worth of development aid to Africa had effectively been wiped out by the cost of war on the continent, the Deputy Secretary-General made a case for preventive diplomacy. Her argument was supported by Ms. Cliffe's contribution, in which she offered an economic analysis of the costs of current approaches to conflict management and

the potential benefits that might flow from comprehensively using preventive diplomacy tools.

Recognizing the need to better understand and account for the root causes of conflict, Council members observed that much could be achieved through the use of preventive diplomacy in tackling problems relating to weak governance, the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons and other socio-economic challenges that could fuel conflict. Members underscored the need for stronger partnership with regional and local actors, investment in early prevention strategies and strengthening of the United Nations capacity in terms of crisis analysis. They recognized that it was the responsibility of the Security Council to maintain international peace and security and that utilizing the full range of preventive diplomacy tools was an essential aspect of the promotion of international peace and security.

A presidential statement was adopted (S/PRST/2010/14) in which the Security Council reaffirmed its commitment to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and the promotion of necessary preventive action in response to disputes or situations, the continuation of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. The statement recalled the importance of continually engaging the potential and existing capacities of the United Nations Secretariat, regional and subregional organizations, and national Governments in preventive diplomacy efforts, including mediation; and welcomed the promotion of regional approaches to the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Council recognized, inter alia, the importance of enhancing efforts to ensure predictable, coherent and timely financial support for preventive diplomacy activities. The Council also expressed its intention to receive within 12 months a report from the Secretary-General making recommendations on how best to optimize the use of preventive diplomacy tools within the United Nations system and in cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and other actors.

Security Council annual report to the General Assembly

All Member States were invited to an informal meeting to share their views on the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, being prepared under Nigeria's presidency. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu of Nigeria and co-chaired by Mr. Arthur Kafeero, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda (having served as President of the Council for July 2009) and Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (who will serve as President of the Council for November 2010).

Of the Member States present, a number called for the report to better reflect the dynamics of Security Council debates in a manner that is more substantive or analytical. Some members stated their belief that the report is an accountability mechanism to the General Assembly, and, as such, it should indicate the challenges the Council has faced in reaching agreement on issues before it, without making value judgments.